Team of Airports Authority of India (AAI) carried out feasibility study of various sites for proposed new Greenfield Airport at Visakhapatnam and submitted report to GoAP indicating feasibility in respect of two sites. The GoAP has been advised to take further clearances and approval of Government of India for construction of new Greenfield Airport.

(c) and (d) Government have offered unlimited access to 18 tourist destinations in the country to the designations in the country to the designated airlines of ASEAN and SAARC countries, which includes Visakhapatnam also. Therefore, the designated airlines of these countries are free to operate as many services as they wish. However, actual operation by any airline is always guided by its own commercial considerations.

Flight of A-380 in India

732. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is in discussion with Airbus to purchase A-380, aircraft for commercial operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Hyderabad airport is A-380 compatible; and

(d) whether in the event of taking a decision to purchase A-380, the airports that the Airport Authority of India (AAI) is planning to upgrade to facilitate the landing of A-380?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is planned that the new Hyderabad International Airport at Shamshabad will be A-380 compatible.

(d) while, Airports Authority of India has plans to upgrade Chennai and Kolkata Airports, Delhi and Mumbai Airports are being upgraded by Joint Venture Companies for A-380 compatibility.

Development of small airports to promote tourism

†733. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to construct small airports in view of the increasing number of domestic and foreign tourists so that small aeroplanes could land at small airports in places popular among tourists; and

(b) if not, whether Government proposes to formulate such a plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) A new policy for Greenfield airports is underway which is aimed to provide required impetus to, *inter-alia,* construction of several airports in smaller cities/towns.

It is also proposed to develop the unused airstrips, which are large in number, for commercial utilization. In this endeavour private sector would also be involved.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.